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Town of New Gloucester Minutes of Annual Town Meeting 2005

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Town of New Gloucester
MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 2, 2005

The Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Town Clerk, Rosemary E. Kulow. The warrant and return of warrant were read.

*The Clerk asked those in attendance to turn off **cell phone** ringers and to refrain from using cell phones indoors during the meeting.*

*The Clerk led the town meeting in the **Pledge of Allegiance**.*

Article 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Nomination of: Donald Libby
Nomination by: Beverly Cadigan
Seconded by: Nancy Wilcox

No other nominations were made.

Those in favor of closing nominations: all
Opposed: none

Nomination of Donald Libby carried.

3 votes were cast for Donald Libby. Donald Libby was elected Moderator.

The Clerk administered the Oath of Office to the Moderator.

Article 2. To See if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$377,190 from taxation and other revenue for the ensuing year for the following:

Selectmen	\$ 19,150
Administration	\$216,340
Town Meetings/Elections	\$ 2,825
Tax Assessment	\$ 65,165
Code Enforcement	\$ 48,710
Legal	<u>\$ 25,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$377,190</u>

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb
Second: James Fitch

Discussion: Wayne Cobb, 279 Lewiston Road, asked if "other revenue" includes the items mentioned in articles 18 and 19. The reply was, yes.

*Vote: It was voted that Article 2 have passage as presented - **\$377,190**.*

Article 3. To See if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$57,785 from taxation and other revenue for the ensuing year for the following:

General Assistance	\$ 19,000
Health Officer	\$ 1,400
Animal Control	\$ 12,000
Cemeteries	\$ 8,000
Interagencies	\$ 14,385
Machine Upkeep	<u>\$ 3,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 57,785</u>

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Discussion: Carl Wilcox had a question for the Cemetery Commissioner, but he was not present.

Vote: It was voted that Article 3 have passage as presented - \$57,785.

Article 4. To See if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$157,240 from taxation and other revenue for the ensuing year for the following:

Fire Department	\$128,890
Emergency Management	\$ 650
Street Lights	\$ 5,800
Public Safety Dispatch	<u>\$ 21,900</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$157,240</u>

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Discussion: Carl Wilcox asked why the street light budget had increased and if a study had been made. Mr. C. Wilcox moved to reduce the street light amount of \$5,800 to \$4378; Mr. E. Wilcox seconded the motion. The amendment failed.

Vote: It was voted that Article 4 have passage as presented - \$157,240.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$977,185 from taxation and other revenue for the ensuing year for the following:

Highway Department	\$558,640
Paving	\$211,270
Road Reconstruction	\$ 31,700
Requested New Construction	\$ 500
Solid Waste	\$171,575
Tree Care	\$ 2,500
Household Haz. Waste Col.	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$977,185</u>

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb
Second: James Fitch

Discussion: Residents, Beth Sutherland, Peter Wales, Bruce Ellis, Patricia Dionisio, Janet Smaldon, Brian Whitney and James Fitch commented on this article. Peter Wales moved to amend the article by transferring \$150,000 from paving to the study of road reconstruction, seconded by Wayne Cobb. The amendment failed by a vote of 42 yeas and 49 nays.

Vote: It was voted that Article 5 have passage as presented – **\$977,185.**

Article 6. To See if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$138,640 from taxation and other revenue for the ensuing year for the following:

Library	\$ 66,500
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 51,802
Recreation	\$ 13,468
Meeting House/Cable TV	\$ 6,870
TOTAL	<u>\$138,640</u>

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb
Second: James Fitch

Discussion: James Fitch commented on the Gazebo account. \$7,600 has been raised to date. Estimated building cost - \$30,000. Mary Whitney asked if money originally donated for maintenance of the High School before the building was turned into the New Gloucester Public Library will be used for maintenance of the Library. The reply was, yes.

Vote: It was voted that Article 6 have passage as read - **\$138,640.**

Article 7. To See if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$253,000 from taxation and other revenue for the following Public Works Capital Reserve accounts for the ensuing year:

Highway Equipment	\$ 80,000	(\$80,000 from Tax)
Transfer Station	\$ 15,000	(\$15,000 from GLSR)
Paving	\$114,000	(\$50,000 Tax; from \$64,000 GLSR)
Road Reconstruction	<u>\$ 44,000</u>	(\$44,000 from GLSR)
TOTAL	<u>\$253,000</u>	

GLSR = General Ledger Special Revenue Account

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb
Second: James Fitch

Discussion: Brian Whitney asked if funds could be taken from the GLSR for engineering study of Woodman Road to expedite the reconstruction. Reply: it would have to be taken up at a special town meeting.

Vote: It was voted that Article 7 have passage as presented - \$253,000.

Article 8. To See if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100,500 from taxation for the following *Public Safety Capital Reserve* accounts for the ensuing year:

Fire/Rescue Equipment	\$ 80,000	(\$80,000 from Tax)
Compressor Fill Station	\$ 10,000	(\$10,000 from Tax)
Water Holes/Fire Protection	\$ 5,500	(\$5,500 from Tax)
Radio System	\$ 5,000	(\$5,000 from Tax)
TOTAL	<u>\$100,500</u>	

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Discussion: Edgar Wilcox asked what a compressor fill station was. Reply from Fire Chief, Gary Sacco: it is used to fill air packs.

Vote: It was voted that Article 8 have passage as presented - \$100,500.

Steve Libby moved and Roger Levasseur seconded a motion to take Article 32 out of order. A vote was taken by a show of hands and the motion failed.

Steve Libby made a motion which was duly seconded to recess the meeting until 8:20 p.m. The motion passed.

Moderator, Donald Libby, reconvened the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Linwood May and Tim Joy of the Royal River Riders Snowmobile Club presented New Gloucester Fire and Rescue with the Rescueboggan from the snowmobile club.

Fire Chief, Gary Sacco, presented plaques to Bill Kiley and Dick Cadigan for their combined 100 years of volunteer service to the Town.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$105,000 from taxation and other revenue for the following *Buildings & Grounds Capital Reserve* accounts for the ensuing year:

Future Land	\$ 25,000	(\$25,000 from Tax)
Revaluation	\$ 15,000	(\$15,000 from Tax)
Meetinghouse Siding	\$ 35,000	(\$35,000 from Tax)
Fairgrounds	\$ 20,000	(\$20,000 from Tax)
Library Expansion	\$ 10,000	(\$10,000 from GLSR)
TOTAL	<u>\$105,000</u>	

GLSR = General Ledger Special Revenue Account

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Discussion: Beverly Cadigan asked if the meetinghouse siding included the ell and what material will be used. Steve Libby replied that it would be the same as the Town Hall.

Vote: It was voted that Article 9 have passage as presented - **\$105,000**.

Article 10. To See if the Town will vote to appropriate \$59,000 from capital reserve and special revenue accounts for the following *Public Works Capital Improvements* for the ensuing year:

Brush Chipper	\$ 30,000	(\$30,000 from Hwy. CR)
Cable Hoist	\$ 20,000	(\$20,000 from Hwy. CR)
Transfer Station	<u>\$ 9,000</u>	(\$9,000 from GLSR)
TOTAL	<u>\$ 59,000</u>	

CR = Capital Reserve Account; GLSR = General Ledger Special Revenue Account

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Discussion: Brian Whitney asked if Capital Reserve means the funds are already there.
Reply - yes.

Vote: It was voted that Article 10 have passage as presented - **\$59,000**.

Article 11. To See if the Town will vote to appropriate \$26,000 from capital reserve accounts for the following *Public Safety Capital Improvements* for the ensuing year:

Compressor Fill Station	\$ 20,000	(\$20,000 from Comp. Fill Stat. CR)
Water Holes/Fire Protection	<u>\$ 6,000</u>	(\$6,000 from Water Holes CR)
TOTAL	<u>\$ 26,000</u>	

CR = Capital Reserve Account

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Discussion: Brian Whitney asked if Public Works monies can be transferred to this account. No reply was heard.

Vote: It was voted that Article 11 have passage as presented - **\$26,000**.

Article 12. To See if the Town will vote to appropriate \$76,400 from capital reserve and special revenue accounts for the following *Building and Grounds Capital Improvements* for the ensuing year:

Meetinghouse Siding	\$ 60,000	(\$60,000 from Mtghs Siding CR)
Fairgrounds	\$ 8,800	(\$8,800 from Fairgrounds CR)
Town Hall Fire/Burglar Alarm	<u>\$ 7,600</u>	(\$7,600 from GLSR)
TOTAL	<u>\$ 76,400</u>	

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Vote: It was voted that Article 12 have passage as presented - **\$76,400.**

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$45,550 from taxation and other revenue for the ensuing year for the following:

Planning	\$43,900
Environmental Resource Committee	\$ 200
Water Resources	\$ 250
Sabbathday Lake Water Testing	<u>\$ 1,200</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$45,550</u>

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Vote: It was voted that Article 13 have passage as read - **\$45,550.**

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$455,912 from taxation and other revenue for the ensuing year for the following:

Insurance	\$210,000
Social Security/Retirement	\$ 68,350
Debt Service	<u>\$177,562</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$455,912</u>

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Vote: It was voted that Article 14 have passage as read - **\$455,912.**

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$313,500 from taxation and other revenue for the ensuing year for the following:

TIF District	\$300,000	(Estimate; calculated when tax rate is determined)
Tax Abatements	<u>\$ 13,500</u>	
TOTAL	<u>\$313,500</u>	

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Discussion: Roger Levasseur – asked if the TIF District amount could be higher. Reply – the actual amount raised for the TIF district is determined when the mill rate is calculated, so, yes, it could be increased.

Mark Bowie – what does TIF mean? Reply – the taxes from the properties in the TIF district are not part of the general fund, but rather, must be used for specific purposes outlined in the TIF district application.

Vote: It was voted that Article 15 have passage as read - \$313,500.

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to transfer all unexpended funds from account #118, Road Reconstruction, to the Road Reconstruction capital reserve account, and authorize expenditure of up to \$30,000 from the Road Reconstruction capital reserve account for engineering for Woodman Road reconstruction.

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Discussion: Beverly Cadigan, Peter Wales and Brian Whitney commented on this article.

Vote: It was voted that Article 16 have passage as read.

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to accept and spend the following categories of State revenue funds during the ensuing year:

1. Municipal Revenue Sharing
2. MDOT URIP
3. Tree Growth Reimbursement
4. General Assistance Reimbursement
5. Veterans Exemption Reimbursement
6. Snowmobile Registration Funds
7. Public Library State Aid
8. Emergency Management Assistance/Homeland Security Grants
9. Other State Aid (*pass-through funds and property tax relief*)
10. State Grants or Other Funds (*not included in items 1-9 above.*)

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Vote: It was voted that Article 17 have passage as read.

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to apply the following anticipated revenues to reduce the tax commitment:

Building and inspection Fees	\$ 59,170	
Transfer Station Fees	\$ 25,000	
Boat Excise Tax	\$ 6,000	
Auto Excise Tax	\$ 825,000	
Town Fees	\$ 20,000	
Recreation Program Fees	\$ 2,000	
Refuse Collection Licenses	\$ 100	
Fines & Reimbursements	\$ 600	
Clerk Fees	\$ 2,400	
Rent Income	\$ 18,000	
Revenue Sharing G.L. Acct.	\$ 176,179	(account holding unapplied Revenue Sharing \$)
Copy/Fax Fees	\$ 3,000	
Other G.L. Acct. Funds	\$ 151,500	(various general ledger accounts)

Franchise Fees	\$ 10,000
Library Revenue	\$ 3,000
Interest from Overdue Tax Pmts.	\$ 18,000
Interest from Investments	\$ 100,000
Insurance Reimbursements	\$ 15,000
Undesignated Fund Balance	\$ 250,000
Capital Reserve Income	\$ 144,800
TOTAL	<u>\$1,829,749</u>

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Vote: It was voted that Article 18 have passage as read. - **\$1,829,749.**

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to reduce appropriations by the following amounts from various State sources:

Municipal Revenue Sharing	\$350,000
URIP (<i>Local Road Assistance</i>)	<u>\$ 82,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$432,000</u>

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Vote: It was voted that Article 19 have passage as read. - **\$432,000.**

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to accept on behalf of the town revenues in excess of amounts budgeted.

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Vote: It was voted that Article 20 have passage as read.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept on behalf of the town donations and/or grants that impose no adverse fiscal impact on the town.

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Discussion: Tim Joy asked for the definition of adverse, and it was explained that adverse would be if a grant or donated item created an expenditure that a current budget couldn't handle.

Vote: It was voted that Article 21 have passage as read.

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to fix a date and terms when taxes shall become due and payable, and set an *interest rate* of 7.75 percent per annum. The 7.75% interest rate is authorized under Title 36 M.R.S.A. Section 505.4, as of January 1, 2005

Board of Selectmen's recommendation: that Friday, October 7, 2005 and Friday, April 7, 2006 be established as the dates taxes are due and payable, and that interest, at the rate of 7.75% per annum will be charged after such dates.

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Vote: It was voted that Article 22 have passage as read.

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept *prepayment of taxes* prior to commitment.

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Vote: It was voted that Article 23 have passage as read.

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell the following *foreclosed properties*:

<u>MAP</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
6	41-A	19 Outlet Road
23	23	34 True's Point
23	24	36 True's Point
2	15-A	174A Sabbathday Road

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Discussion: Nancy Wilcox commented on the article.

Vote: It was voted that Article 24 have passage as read.

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$3,000 from the undesignated fund balance as the *town's match* for up to three *safety equipment grants* from the Maine Municipal Association.

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Vote: It was voted that Article 25 have passage as read.

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to return *unexpended capital improvement funds* to their corresponding capital *reserve* accounts.

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Vote: It was voted that Article 26 have passage as read.

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of funds in *general ledger special revenue accounts* to capital reserve accounts, the general fund, or to reduce taxes as recommended on the attached chart.

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Vote: It was voted that Article 27 have passage as read.

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of \$1,562.87 from general ledger special revenue account 353-00 to the *Cemetery Association* to purchase markers for veterans' graves.

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Vote: It was voted that Article 28 have passage as read.

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$40,000 from general ledger special revenue account of 216-00 to reposition *ball fields*, as approved at a previous town meeting.

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Discussion: Brian Whitney commented on this article.

Vote: It was voted that Article 29 have passage as read.

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to offer *surplus town equipment* and/or supplies for *sale* and to deposit proceeds from sales in corresponding capital reserve accounts.

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Discussion: Roger Levasseur commented on this article.

Vote: It was voted that Article 30 have passage as read.

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer *Tax Increment Financing (TIF)* District funds (estimated at \$300,000) from the general fund to a special revenue TIF district account from which authorized expenditures will be made.

Motion: A. Wayne Cobb

Second: James Fitch

Vote: It was voted that Article 31 have passage as read.

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to adopt An Article to Support and Protect the Soldiers and Families of the *Maine National Guard (By petition.)*

Motion: August Jaccaci

Second: James Fitch

Discussion: Penny Hilton, Betty Wurtz, August Jaccaci, Nancy Wilcox, Mark Ray, Steve Libby, Robin Ray, Chris Rowe, Mark Bowie, Ed Mitchell, Lynn Conger, Tim Joy, Bill Kiley, and Adam Rich commented on the article.

Mr. Libby made a motion to take a vote by paper ballot, seconded by Wayne Cobb. The motion carried on a vote of 52 yeas and 30 nays.

The moderator declared the ballot box opened at 9:55 p.m. Voter Registrar, Barbara Seaver, handed out ballots to residents and asked for proof of residency when necessary. The moderator declared the ballot box closed at 10:10 p.m.

Vote on the article: 23 yeas, 87 nays. The article failed.

A motion to adjourn was made and duly seconded at 10:15 p.m. The motion passed with only one vote against adjournment made by Bill Kiley.

ATTEST: _____
Town Clerk, Rosemary E. Kulow